

Submitter: Kimberly Gardner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB736

I strongly support SB736.

I am the parent of a highly gifted 5th grader in Multnomah County. He is currently more than several years advanced in math and science. As a parent who is very fortunate to have access to time and other resources, I have spent hours upon hours researching how my son can access the learning he needs for his overall health and well-being. Yet, despite asking the school and district multiple times, I have no idea what he will do for math or science next year.

When looking toward his future high school options in our district, I'm still unable to find answers. Any bit of information I do find lacks consistency from year to year and from school to school.

Most importantly, not all families have the time and resources to assess their student's level of learning, and then gain access to the advanced-level educational opportunities they need.

Every student needs access to an education that allows them to be challenged and learn. Through an appropriately challenging education, students learn how to study, struggle, and persevere. Meeting a student at their instructional level allows them to learn that doing hard work is rewarding. It teaches them how to develop a good work ethic. These life skills are critical to creating a positive outcome for all Oregon students.

I strongly support a study seeking to identify how schools and districts can increase access to advanced instruction in public schools in Oregon. All students deserve an appropriate education that will help them have success in college and career.